

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following paragraphs on page 1 immediately after the title:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/257,531, filed December 21, 2000, and U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/265,359, filed January 31, 2001.

GOVERNMENT RIGHTS

This invention was made with government support under Grant Nos. CDA-9322371 and CDA-9619861 awarded by the National Science Foundation. The government has certain rights in the invention.

Please delete paragraph [0019] and amend paragraphs [0018], [0036], [0042] and [0043] to read as follows:¹

[0018] FIGS. [[4A and 4B]] 4 and 5 are diagrams showing certain dynamic sharing methods of a group work area according to the present invention.

[0036] ~~As shown in FIG. 6, preferably~~ Preferably, the moderator work area 310 and each of the participant work areas 320 are each implemented as at least one scroll, each scroll comprising a set of practically infinitely scrollable panels. In the presently preferred embodiment, for example, the moderator work area 310 comprises a moderator public scroll 610 and a moderator private scroll 612, ~~while each having one or more panels 650 as shown in FIG. 6.~~ Likewise, each participant work area 320 comprises a participant public scroll 620 and a participant private scroll 622, ~~described herein with reference to FIG. 5, each scroll having a number of panels.~~ (In those embodiments lacking a moderator private work area 340a, the moderator private scroll 612 is excluded.) Preferably, each of the scrolls is made up of one or more panels 650 in series, similar to a slide-show. However, unlike a slide show, preferably, portions of more than one panel 650 can be displayed at a time, so that an image can be placed straddling two panels 650 and still have each portion displayed simultaneously. “Scrollable,” in

¹ References are to the numbered paragraphs in the application as published.

this context, means that the panels 650 can be larger than what can be displayed on the display device, but that the portion that is being displayed can be “scrolled” by means of a scroll bar or other appropriate mechanism, such as would occur to a person of ordinary skill in the art of computer use. “Practically infinite,” in this context, means limited by the ability of volatile memory to contain the entire scroll. In certain embodiments, the panels 650 can scroll vertically or horizontally. In certain embodiments, the panels can scroll both vertically and horizontally. In certain alternative embodiments, the panel’s length is limited by persistent memory, such that portions of the panel are swapped between volatile and persistent memory as necessary when the size of the panel exceeds what can be stored in volatile memory alone. Preferably, the panels have a variable size. Thus, in order to conserve space, a panel preferably is created with some relatively small size. If additional space is needed in order to accommodate larger images, the panel’s size can be increased. Thus, in the preferred embodiment, the user defines the actual size of each panel. Preferably, such additional panel size can be added even after additional panels have been added to the scroll.

[0042] A preferred embodiment In certain embodiments a system according to the present invention can use dynamic or static sharing methods to transfer information between workstations. As discussed above, in certain embodiments the system uses TCP/IP to permit dynamic sharing methods. ~~FIGS. 4A, 4B and~~ FIGS. 4 and 5 illustrate three such dynamic sharing methods. For example, as shown in FIG. [[4B]] 4, the moderator can select a panel 650 from either the moderator’s public scroll 610 or the moderator’s private scroll 612 to be sent or “pushed” to a participant’s workstation. For another example, as shown in FIG. [[4A]] 4, a moderator might pull a panel 650 from a participant’s public scroll 620 or private scroll 622 by selecting the panel 650 to pull. A message is sent to the participant’s workstation, which then sends the panel 650 back to the moderator workstation without participant interaction. The returned panel 650 can be placed on the moderator’s public scroll 610 or the moderator’s private scroll 612, at the moderator’s discretion.

[0043] FIG. 5 illustrates a kind of dynamic sharing in which the participant pushes a panel 650 either from the participant’s public scroll 620 or private scroll 622, which is then placed on the moderator’s public scroll 610 or private scroll 612, at the moderator’s discretion.